
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Executive Order No. 63 (2013)

Establishing the Governor's Teacher Cabinet

Importance of the Issue

Virginia's teachers are entrusted with the education of our children and strive to instill a love of learning in and out of the classroom. Our teachers, through academics, athletics, extra-curricular activities and social interaction, lead students to develop independence, self-discipline and character. We must do everything we can to recruit, retain and reward excellent teachers in Virginia. Teachers are valuable resources to ensure a prosperous future in the Commonwealth.

While the Commonwealth is fortunate to benefit from a top-ranked K-12 education system and world class teachers, we must continue to look for ways to elevate our educator workforce and to place the most effective and prepared teachers in the classroom. We must ensure that we craft policies, procedures and regulations that allow for flexibility and innovation, yet continue to hold our educators accountable.

The following measures are a critical step to continue promoting the importance of effective teachers.

Establishment of the Governor's Teacher Cabinet

We must harness the unlimited educational potential to create greater opportunities for our young people and the Commonwealth. Accordingly, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor under Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and under the laws of the Commonwealth, including but not limited to § 2.2-134 and 135 of the *Code of Virginia*, and subject to my continuing and ultimate authority and responsibility to act in such matters, I hereby establish the Governor's Teacher Cabinet ("Cabinet").

Composition of the Governor's Teacher Cabinet

The Governor's Teacher Cabinet shall receive the full staff support of the Office of the Secretary of Education and the Virginia Department of Education. The Cabinet shall include up to twenty-two non-legislative citizen members comprised of educators with diverse experiences and perspectives. The Cabinet shall include up to two legislators with a background in education. The Secretary of Education and Teacher of the Year shall serve as ex-officio members. All agencies, as deemed necessary by the Secretary of Education, shall participate and provide assistance as requested. In addition, each executive branch agency that has a significant impact on K-12 education shall designate one person to serve as a liaison to the Cabinet. Further, I reserve the authority to designate any other such citizens as I deem appropriate to serve on the Cabinet. The Governor shall appoint the chair and vice chair(s) of the Cabinet.

Members of the Cabinet shall serve without compensation.

Charge for the Governor's Teacher Cabinet

The Governor's Teacher Cabinet shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Identify additional resources, learning tools and professional development opportunities that the Department of Education could make available to local school divisions;
2. Recommend strategies for greater parent and community engagement;
3. Recommend strategies to improve the K-12 education, higher education and workforce collaboration;
4. Identify any needed improvements to administrative responsibilities; and
5. Recommend strategies to close the achievement gap and assist disadvantaged students.

An estimated 400 hours of staff time will be required to support the Cabinet. An estimated \$2,000 in office materials is expected to fund the Cabinet. Such funding as is necessary for the term of the Cabinet's existence shall be provided from sources, including both private and appropriated funds, contributed or appropriated for purposes related to the work of the cabinet, as authorized by §2.2-135(B) of the *Code of Virginia*.

The Cabinet shall provide its first report of recommendations and action items to the Governor no later than November 15, 2013. The Cabinet shall thereafter provide regular supplemental reports setting forth additional recommendations and actions items and reporting on agency progress implementing the Cabinet's recommendations adopted by the Governor.

Effective Date of the Executive Order

Pursuant to §2.2-135 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Cabinet shall remain in effect for a period of one year and the Executive Order shall remain in effect for one year.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia this 17th day of September, 2013.

/s/ Robert F. McDonnell, Governor

Attest:

/s/Janet V. Kelly, Secretary of the Commonwealth

